

IN THE CLAIMS

--1-17 (Canceled)

¹ ~~18.~~ (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide suitable for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon- α and/or interferon- β for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(at) the polynucleotide of comprising Sequence ID No. 1;

(bt) a polynucleotide having a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 99.83% identical to Sequence ID No. 1 and having MxA gene promoter activity; and

(et) a complementary strand of the polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (at) and ~~(dt)~~ (bt).

² ~~19.~~ (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim ~~18~~, which comprises (at).

³ ~~20.~~ (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim ~~18~~, which comprises (bt).

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

⁴ ~~23.~~ (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim ~~18~~, which comprises (et).

⁵ ~~24.~~ (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim ~~18~~, further comprising at least one additional polynucleotide connected to said polynucleotide, the additional polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a promoter, an enhancer, an

upstream activation sequence, a silencers, a upstream suppression sequence, an attenuator, a poly A tail, a nucleus transport signal, Kozak sequence, ISRE, a drug resistance factor, a gene of signal peptide, a gene of transmembrane domain, a gene of marker protein, a gene of interferon-responding protein, and a gene of interferon-non-responding protein.

25-45. (Canceled)

~~6~~ 46. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim ~~18~~. ¹

47-61. (Canceled)